

## ABSTRACT

The present invention provides methods for diagnosing mycobacteria other than tuberculosis (MOTT) infections in patients comprising amplifying the internal transcribed spacer sequence (ITSS) of 16S-23S rDNA of MOTT with primers that  
5 amplify MOTT but not *Mycobacteria Tuberculosis* (MTB). The present invention also provides a method for differentiating between MOTT and MTB infections comprising amplifying MOTT with primers that amplify MOTT but not MTB; amplifying MTB with primers that amplify MTB but not MOTT; and detecting approximately 130 base pair product indicative of MOTT and approximately 180 base pair product indicative of MTB.

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